Policemen and Firemen—1916

THREE PASS RIGID EXAMINATION FOR POLICE WOMEN

More Women Should Have Taken the Examination for This All Important Position. We Should Have a Police Woman at Every Railroad Station in Chicago to Protect All Girls, White and Black, Coming Into City.

Chicago Defender

THE GREAT TRIUMVIRATE

Women Are in the Lead in Everything of Uplift—They Bear Our Children, Then Protect Them from the Lynch Hounds, Some Even Find the Board and Bed for the Family—Now They Are the First to Lead in Defense of Our Girls in "Red-light Flate," Where Many are Turned Out as Damaged Goods.

Of the 265 persons who took the examination several months ago for policewomen, 27 passed and three were members of the race. They were Mrs. Annie W. Fitts, Miss Gertrude Hart and Miss Grace Wilson. For over two years the Chicago Defender has urged the women of the race to qualify and pass these examinations and by so doing they would have an opportunity to do some real work among their people on the South Side. When it was announced that the examination would be held, a number of race women were present and, like other nationalities, stood the test. The Defender desires that whenever there is an examination of whatever character, be right on the job and stick an average as high as the next one. The Defender is proud to know that each of these women made a good average and that there is every opportunity for them to be appointed. From reliable sources, it comes that each will receive an appointment, as race women are needed here on the South Side and all over the city to do the kind of work planned them by the police department. It is a known fact that the women of our race who passed are women of capacity, training and intelligent. They will measure up to the standard of any women of the other race. It will be the fight of the Defender to see that they are appointed.

Mrs. Annie W. Fitts.

Mrs. Fitts is one of the most active women in this city. Her early training was secured at California, finishing the Santa Cruz High School with honors, the only race student to finish that institution. She also spent one year at the State Normal School for teachers located at San Jose, Cal. In 1895 she came to Chicago and was married to B. W. Fitts, proprietor of the Crystal Printing Company in 1899. Having mastered the printer's trade, after four years of experience at the trade in this city, she set out at once to help her husband pay for the printing plant, which they accomplished by working day and night. She is a member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, several secret societies, among them being the Court of Calanthe, which organization she was for three years secretary of the endowment board. She has taken interest in welfare and wayward children and is a member of Fred Douglass Center and Bethel Literary Club.

Miss Gertrude Hart.

Miss Gertrude Hart, 3238 Vernon ave., is another of the young women to pass the examination. She was born in Ohio and finished the public schools of Cincinnati, graduating from the Hughes High School. Later she taught school and her family was known as one of the "first families" of Ohio. She seems to be peculiarly adapted for the work and believes that she will make a good officer if appointed. While she does not pose as a politician, she has always taken a great interest in the affairs of the city. She is especially interested in the race. She has been in Chicago twelve years.

Miss Grace Wilson.

Miss Grace Wilson, Evansville, Ind., was educated at Governor Street School and later on she attended Manual Training High School at Indianapolis. Wishing to become well equipped educationally, she took up higher branches of learning and entered the School of Civics and Philanthropy. She is active in church work, being a member of Institutional Church and has served as stewardess board. She is a member of the Citizens' Political Equality League and Alpha Suffrage Club. She is quite a club and charity worker, investigator for the Negro Fellowship League and the Union Charity Club. She is chairman of the trustee board of the Warden Temple No. 16, Lady of Elks.

BRAVE OFFICER SHOT

Officer Walter Howard One of the Best Colored Officers in this Country and a Terror to Crooks, Thugs and Evil-doers Seriously Wounded in an Encounter with Two Ex-convicts.

Kansas City Star 9/4/16

He is improving nicely and will recover.

Police Officer Walter Howard, one of the gamest and most courageous officers, white or black, in this country, and Officer T. W. Wright (white were shot and seriously wounded in an encounter with two Negro burglars, both ex-convicts, William Hammonds of St. Louis and Ed Turner of this city. Howard was at home, off duty, ewhn the shooting between Officer Wright and the burglars began, and loyal to his oath and obligations as an officer, grabbed his revolver and ran to the assistance of his brother officer, who had already been felled with a bullet in his arm and one in his side. Officer Howard was not inclined to kill the burglar and made the almost fatal mistake of giving him an opportunity to surrender, but the burglar grabbed the officer's revolver and quicker than a flash fired point blank at him twice, one bullet grazing his chin, making a flesh wound, the other entering his chest and penetrating his left lung, but Howard never ceased firing until he and Officer Black, who ran up, brought the burglar to the ground, wounded three times.

Howard was immediately rushed to the General Hospital, where an X-ray was taken to locate the bullet, which was later removed by his physician and was then taken to the Wheatley-Provident Hospital, where he is resting nicely, with every indication that he will be out again in a few days. Officer Howard has been a terror to evildoers in whatever district he has been assigned and it is that class that are rejoicing over his temporary disability. He is a crack shot and an all around athlete and has ever been loyal and courteous to his superior officers. He is a brother of Mrs. Theodore Clay and a nephew of Elsa Pence, the well known barber, and comes from one of the oldest and best families in Jackson county. He is married, lives at 1914 Olive street where he owns a comfortable little home, is a thirty-second degree Mason and a member of Allen Chapel, and The Sun believes that only justice and proper credit would be done if the commissioners should confer upon him the rank of sergeant for his courage and the splendid record he has made in the many years he has been upon the police force.

OFFICER WALTER HOWARD.

2/27/16. DREAMERS.

In a public statement a few days ago some one stated that he was the first white man to appoint a colored man on the police force. The Bee doesn't want the colored people to be misled by such a wild goose statement. This city is full of dreamers. Some men imagine that they carry all the colored people in their vest pockets. These things are only dreams among certain pothouse politicians.

The first colored man to be appointed on the police force in this city was Abe Dyson and he was appointed by Wm. Henry Smith, the first colored police commissioner. No white man had any thing to do with the appointment of Dyson. The first colored detective was Tillghman. He was a man and a gentleman and the shrewdest colored detective that has ever been in the detective bureau. No white man had any thing to do with either appointment. The Bee

This is a great town for dreamers.

The Amsterdam News 6/27/16

BATTLE POLICEMAN FIVE YEARS ON THURSDAY

Patrolman S. J. Battle, who is a prominent member of the police force and connected with the 38th Precinct in Harlem, will have been a member of the department five years this Thursday, June 29.

He will get his first stripe and be accepted as a full equipped officer. Five years ago when Battle passed the examination and was appointed a patrolman he was the first of the four colored men who are now members of the Police Department, and it is generaly conceded that he, by his ability and determination, opened the way for those who followed and others who may wish to qualify.

Mr. Battle, too, during his five years of service for the city has been an admirable and efficient officer. Thursday, also, is the 11th anniversary of Patrolman and Mrs. Battle, and as the two events are simultaneous they will doubtless be celebrated with much joy in the home of the policeman, 823 East 223d street, Williamsbridge.

RACE POLICE WOMEN FOR PITTSBURGH

Chicago Defender

One Needed Badly—Ministers and Well-Meaning Citizens Back Movement Strongly—Council Gives Them Hearing.

1/29/16.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Jan. 28.—Ministers and other race men appealed to the city council in an effort to provide better protection for the girls of their race in the Hill district. The object of the appeal was to ask for race policewomen, whose work will be principally in the saloons of Wiley and Center avenue and adjacent streets. Girls of the race, the signers say, are enticed into saloons and other places not conducive of moral uplift. They say that after an investigation they have come to the conclusion that a race woman with the power of the police is the only remedy for conditions. The matter of saloons selling to boys and the poolrooms allowing them to frequent their establishments were also brought up during the hearing.

Robert Carroll, one of the two colored detectives on the Washington police force, has been exonerated from charges preferred some time ago by a colored man interested in an investigation, and has been reinstated and assigned to duty. The charges had been sustained by a trial board and Mr. Carroll had been recommended for dismissal. An appeal to the fair-minded commissioners of the District led to a new trial, which resulted in a reversal of the findings of the trial board and the consequent order that the suspended officer be restored to his post. The charges were pronounced groundless. Mr. Carroll's victory carries with it not only his triumphant reinstatement, but back pay for time lost while under suspension. He is regarded as one of the very best officers on the staff of Major Pullman, superintendent of police. 3/11/16.

IS MADE DETECTIVE

Geo. Wheeler Is Made Detective In Dayton, Well Known Here.

Louisville Herald 1-25-16

Many persons in Louisville will be glad to learn that Mr. George W. Wheeler, of Dayton, Ohio, has been promoted to the detective force of that city. Mr. Wheeler is well known in Louisville, having made a number of visits here both on sleuth business and on pleasure. His pleasant disposition and air of hale-fellow won him many friends here, who will rejoice to know that his good police work has been recognized with this promotion.

FOURTH RACE MAN ADDED TO POLICE FORCE

Chicago Defender

Knoxville, Tenn., Jan. 28.—With the appointment of Charles Redmon as supernumerary policeman to serve on the Knoxville police force, the colored race has the fourth representative in that department. Mr. Redmon has served in the capacity of supernumerary policeman and janitor for nearly six years and has rendered effective service to the city. His good record was the means of causing his appointment in the above mentioned office. He resigned the place of janitor and Green Simpson, a prominent citizen of the Fifth Ward, was appointed to succeed him. 1/29/16.

FIRST NEGRO POLICE SERGEANT APPOINTED

Atlantic City, N. J.—When Royal Robinson was promoted to be a sergeant of police in this city he was the first colored man in the history of Atlantic City to receive such an appointment. He has been on the force for twenty-three years.

The newly elected commissioners promised to recognize merit on part of Negro officials and this is the first evidence that they were sincere. The next thing looked for is the appointment of a Negro fire company, and the commissioners promise to make good.

NEW CASTLE HAS FIRST COLORED POLICEMAN

New Castle, Pa.—Andrew Wells, 1717 Pennsylvania avenue, has been appointed on the police force in this city. He is the first Negro to receive an appointment as a policeman. He was endorsed for the position by many of the most prominent people of the city of both races.

EVENING TELEGRAM

New York City

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Saturday.—An ordinance creating the first negro manned fire station in Atlantic City has been approved. The measure was introduced by Director of Public Safety William H. Bartlett and was considered a political move to gain the negro vote in the commission election.